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**Miriam Stearns Houghton Collection,
1920-2006 (bulk 1921-1924)
(MSS- 038)**

*Finding Aid Compiled by
Amanda Ayochock, 2024*

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Volume: 0.5 linear feet (1 document box)

Acquisition: All items in this manuscript group were donated to Bridgewater State University by Naomi Jackson (great-granddaughter of Louis Stearns) in 2018.

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Miriam Stearns Houghton Biographical Sketch

Miriam Howard Stearns of Bridgewater, Massachusetts enrolled at the Bridgewater Normal School (now Bridgewater State University) in 1921. During her education she focused on Kindergarten Primary and working with children. She was an active member of her community as a participant of the Glee Club in her early years at the school. She went on to hold several positions in the T.C. (Garden) Club where her father, Louis C. Stearns, was the faculty advisor. She graduated in 1924. Louis C. Stearns was a teacher and the Superintendent of Greenhouse and School Gardens at the Bridgewater Normal School. During his career at Bridgewater Normal, from 1911-1944, he taught courses in gardening, botany, agriculture, and nature studies. As a longtime caretaker of the school garden, after his retirement, the Stearns/McNamara Memorial Garden was named in his honor and remains dedicated to his work to this day.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains material documenting Miriam Howard Stearns' life at Bridgewater Normal School (BNS) during her time of study from 1921-1924, and later life after BNS. Included are her student notebooks and classwork from the Kindergarten Primary (K-P) program; club materials related to the Glee Club, Women's Athletic Organization (W.A.A.), and Beta Gamma Sorority; photographs of her K-P classes, friends, her father Louis C. Stearns, and campus facilities; and handmade K-P instruction books. Many items reflect major school events, such as Initiation Day, the 1924 campus fire, class reunions, 1940s centennials, and aspects of student life through photographs and pamphlets.

Box and Folder List

Box 1 Folder

1. Photos of Louis Stearns, 1910, 1946, 1954
2. Student life, drama club, 1917-1924
3. Greenhouse Photos, ca. 1920-1923
4. Design-Color Book, 1921-1922

5. Miriam Stearns Personal Photos with Friends & Classmates, 1921-1933
6. Scrapbook Photos, 1921-1924
7. Student Notebooks, 1922
8. Student Notebooks & Classwork, 1922
9. Ephemera – tickets, 1922-1924
10. Photos of Miriam’s K-P Classmates – Training Class – Normal School, 1922-1931
11. Initiation Day Photos, 1923
12. Prospect School Photos, 1923
13. Miriam’s Invite to Bridgewater Normal Commencement, 1924
14. Photographs – Reunion – School Fire – Boyden, 1924, 1946
15. Annual Conference of Principals of Junior and High Schools at State Normal Bridgewater, 1924
16. May Day Pamphlet, 1925
17. Beta Gamma Yearbook – Menu – Photograph, 1928, 1940, 1985
18. BSU Centennial Pamphlet, 1940
19. Newspaper Clipping of L.C. Stearns at Centennial, 1946
20. Bridgewater Alumni Association Pamphlet, 1946-1950
21. Interview by Ruth Chandler about Louis Stearns, 1954
22. Miriam’s Photos After BSU, 1972, 1996, 2006
23. Class of 1924 Anniversary & Class Will, 1974
24. Misc. Papers – Programs – List, undated
25. Miriam Stearns K-P 1 & 2, undated
26. Campus Photos, undated
27. Plant Drawing Book, undated
28. Picture Study, undated